

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are all the claims pending in the application.

Reconsideration and review of the claims on the merits are respectfully requested.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant appreciates that, on the Office Action Summary sheet, the Examiner has acknowledged Applicant's claim for foreign priority and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

Applicant also appreciates that the Examiner has returned an initialed and signed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 A & B submitted to the Patent Office on November 15, 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as assertedly being anticipated by Hamada et al (US 6,469,848).

Applicant responds as follows.

Hamada et al has a §371 (c)(1), (2), (4) date of February 27, 2001, which is after the filing date of Applicant's foreign priority document, filed April 28, 2000, based on the Japanese Patent Application. Enclosed is a sworn English language translation of Applicant's foreign priority document 2000-130306. Applicant therefore removes Hamada et al as a reference by completing the claim to priority with a sworn English language translation of Applicant's foreign priority document 2000-130306, which supports the pending claims, for example:

Claim 1 Claim 1 of 2000-130306;

Claim 2 Claim 2 of 2000-130306;

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Application No. 09/843,889

Q63829

Claim 3 corresponding to Claims 3 and 1 of 2000-130306; and

Claim 4 corresponding to Claims 3 and 2 of 2000-130306.

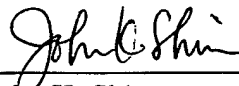
In view of the above, Applicant submits that Hamada et al is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, and requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Hamada et al be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



John K. Shin
Registration No. 48,409

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 8, 2003